

# FBI Agents Enter Hunt for Santa Barbara Girl

## Police Still Undecided if Missing Child Was Abducted Near Rear of Golf Course

By a Times Correspondent

**SANTA BARBARA**—The FBI has entered the search for 7-year-old Ramona Irene Price, believed kidnaped Saturday while walking to her new home, police disclosed Tuesday night.

Reginald W. Cooley, acting police chief, said FBI investigators "are cooperating in every way possible to help solve this case."

There are two resident federal agents here.

### Leads Discussed

Cooley said possible leads were discussed at a meeting Tuesday of police with Sheriff John D. Ross and Dist. Atty. Vern B. Thomas.

The police official said there still were some doubts whether the girl was picked up by an abductor near the rear entrance of the La Cumbre Golf and Country Club.

This was where a trail followed by a bloodhound disappeared. Both Ted Prince, the dog's handler, and tracker Ralph Hughes of Santa Barbara reported finding footprints in the dust believed to be those of the missing girl.

### Mile From Home

The trail ended 1.7 miles from her home.

Authorities were understood to be seeking any possible connection between Ramona's disappearance and that of 11-year-old Karen Lynn Tompkins near Torrance on Aug. 18.

Ramona's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Price, said Ramona set out late Saturday morning to walk to a new home the family was moving into seven miles away in Walnut Park, a new subdivision. They said they thought the girl was only joking.

### Massive Hunt Launched

When she failed to appear later, a massive search of the area was launched with the aid of 200 volunteers.

Prince and the bloodhound, Abe, were flown here Sunday from Hamilton AFB. After following a number of fruitless leads, the hound re-

portedly picked up Ramona's scent and tracked it to the point where her footprints vanished on Modoc Rd.

Prince said the dog had stopped at the same spot five different times and was unable to pursue the scent any farther.

"The girl did not go on foot beyond that point," Prince declared.

The pretty youngster's disappearance was all the more puzzling because the route she apparently traveled was heavy with automobile traffic at the time.